

#1 SUMMER 2009

wisdom

CARDIFF SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
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**New courses,
new facilities,
new approaches**

School celebrates its past and builds for the future



BRIAN COOKE MEMORIAL LECTURE | PROFILE: DR G JENKINS

Words of *wisdom*



Welcome to the first issue of *wisdom*, the School of Dentistry's magazine. The School has recently helped Cardiff University celebrate its 125th anniversary, and the NHS its 60th anniversary, along with holding a memorial for our founding Dean, Brian Cooke. These events have caused us to look with great pride at our achievements since the establishment of the School in 1964 and how much of an impact it has made and continues to make in Wales, the UK and beyond to patient care, education and research.

Given the continuing growth of the School, its ambitious and exciting goals, and the broadening range of people involved with our activities across the globe, *wisdom* is intended as a way for us to share information, news and experiences with all of our stakeholders, whether a member of our existing staff or student bodies, an alumnus, policy maker, sector body, potential student, funder, sponsor, industrial partner or NHS colleague.

The Cardiff School of Dentistry has a reputation for excellence in teaching, research and clinical care. This reputation has been enhanced by recent developments

including investment in the School's facilities, the development of new courses and the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise results. There are also many other important news stories from the past year which are detailed further in *wisdom*. All of these achievements have established the School within the top five UK dental schools, and provided us with a platform for significant growth to help us achieve our strategic vision of being recognised as one of the top three dental schools in the UK. We have exciting plans in place to develop the School further, and a taste of these is given within these pages.

We hope that over the coming years *wisdom* will become a popular platform for us to communicate with each other, and positively affect the discipline in which we work and are so passionate about. In future issues, we will be seeking items of interest from all of our stakeholders with which to populate the magazine, whether educational, clinical or research oriented. As such, please remember to send any announcements, news items and suggestions you have to wisdom@cardiff.ac.uk.

We hope you enjoy this issue and look forward to receiving your contributions and feedback. Welcome to *wisdom*.

Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Dean.

Rhywbeth i gnoi cil arno

Croeso i'r rhifyn cyntaf o wisdom, cylchgrawn yr Ysgol Ddeintyddiaeth.

Yn ddiweddar, mae'r Ysgol wedi helpu Prifysgol Caerdydd i ddathlu ei phen-blwydd yn 125 oed, ac wedi helpu'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol i ddathlu ei ben-blwydd yn 60 oed, yn ogystal â chynnal gwasanaeth coffa i'r Deon a'n sylfaenodd, Brian Cooke. Mae'r digwyddiadau hyn wedi peri inni edrych â balchder mawr ar ein campau ers i'r Ysgol gael ei sefydlu ym 1964 a gweld faint o argraff y mae wedi'i chreu ac y mae'n parhau i'w chreu yng Nghymru, y Deyrnas Unedig a'r tu hwnt ym maes gofal i gleifion, addysg ac ymchwil.

O gofio bod yr Ysgol yn dal i dyfu, bod ganddi nodau uchelgeisiol a chyffrous, a bod ystod gynyddol o bobl yn ymwneud â'n gweithgareddau ni ledled y byd, bwriad wisdom yw cynnig ffordd inni rannu gwybodaeth, newyddion a phrofiadau gyda'n holl randdeiliaid, boed aelod o'r staff presennol neu fyfyrwr, cyn-fyfyrwr, gwneuthurwr polisi, corff yn y sector, darpar fyfyrwr, ariannwr, noddwr, partner diwydiannol neu gydweithiwr yn y GIG.

Mae gan Ysgol Ddeintyddiaeth Caerdydd enw da oherwydd ei rhagoriaeth mewn addysg, ymchwil a gofal clinigol. Mae datblygiadau diweddar wedi ychwanegu at yr enw da hwn, gan gynnwys buddsoddi yng nghyfleusterau'r Ysgol, datblygu cyrsiau newydd a charlyniadau Ymarfer Asesu Ymchwil 2008. Mae yna lawer o storïau newyddion da eraill o'r flwyddyn ddiwethaf y gwelwch chi ragor o fanylion amdanyn nhw yn wisdom. Mae'r holl gyraeddiadau hyn wedi cadarnhau lle'r Ysgol ymhlith y pum ysgol ddeintyddol uchaf yn y Deyrnas Unedig, ac wedi rhoi llwyfan inni dyfu'n sylweddol i'n helpu i wireddu'n gweledigaeth strategol, sef cael ein cydnabod fel un o'r tair prif ysgol ddeintyddol yn y Deyrnas Unedig. Mae gennyn ni gynlluniau cyffrous i ddatblygu'r Ysgol ymhellach, a chewch flas ar y cynlluniau yn y tudalennau hyn.

Gobeithio y bydd wisdom yn y blynyddoedd i ddod yn llwyfan poblogaidd inni gyfathrebu â'n gilydd, gan gael effaith gadarnhaol ar y ddisgyblaeth rydyn ni'n gweithio ynddi ac yn teimlo mor angerddol amdani. Yn y dyfodol, byddwn yn chwilio am eitemau o ddiddordeb oddi wrth ein holl randdeiliaid i lenwi'r cylchgrawn, yn addysgol, yn glinigol neu'n ymwneud ag ymchwil. Felly, cofiwch anfon unrhyw gyhoeddiadau, eitemau newyddion ac awgrymiadau sydd gennych at wisdom@caerdydd.ac.uk.

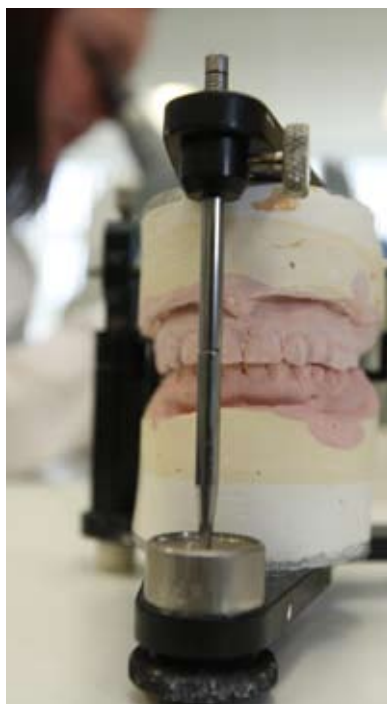
Gobeithio y byddwch yn mwynhau'r rhifyn hwn ac edrychwn ymlaen at gael eich cyfraniad a'ch adborth. Croeso i *wisdom*.

Yr Athro Elizabeth Treasure, Deon.



ALUMNI PROFILE: DR JENKINS

"Keep learning and push the boundaries as far as your clinical skills allow," pp 15



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the School continues to stand at the forefront of student training

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An introduction as the School celebrates its Research Assessment Exercise success

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80

In 2010/11 the annual intake of BDS students will increase to 80

5

The number of postgraduate courses now offered by the School

125
& 60

The anniversaries of Cardiff University and the NHS Trust

Cover image from research undertaken by Dr Lindsay Davies, showing neurons which have been successfully made from oral progenitor cells and are characterised by the production of neurofilament M

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When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

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A leading light in dental and oro-facial research

Cardiff School of Dentistry is at the forefront of academic excellence both nationally and internationally

An introduction

The School of Dentistry plays a unique, national role in leading dental research and education in Wales. Research undertaken, both within the School, and as part of national and international collaborations, continues to inform the understanding of human disease processes, healthcare planning and delivery. The research has evolved around three major research themes: Applied Clinical Research & Public Health, Tissue Engineering & Reparative Dentistry and Learning & Scholarship.

The **Applied Clinical Research & Public Health** theme assures the planning and delivery of orthodontic care, and conducts research into factors affecting the dental health of populations. It participates in the UK Child Dental Health Survey, and hosts the UK Oral Health Branch of the National Library for Health. The Violence & Society Research Group has played a major role in the UK and internationally in the epidemiology, management and prevention of facial injuries. In recognition of this work, Professor Jonathan Shepherd was awarded the 2008 Stockholm Prize for Criminology.

In an ageing society, tissue engineering and repair following injury or disease is increasingly important. The School's **Tissue Engineering and Reparative Dentistry** theme is leading research in this area. This theme plays a key role in the Cardiff Institute for Tissue Engineering & Repair, which links different disciplines within the University, and involves 11 schools. The exciting research programme is improving our understanding of human disease at a cellular and molecular

RAE confirms Cardiff as one of UK's top five dental schools

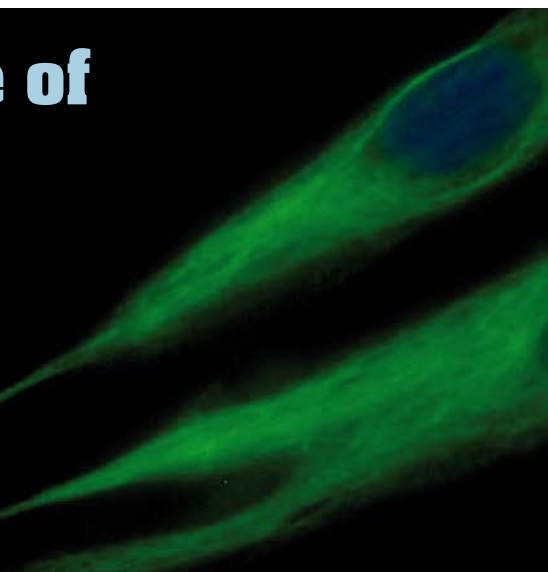
The School cemented its position as one of the top five UK dental schools with the release of the national Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) results in December 2008.

The exercise, based on peer review, assessed the quality of research outputs across all UK higher education institutions and subject areas, and forms the basis of the UK Government's allocation of 'quality research' funding, worth £1.5bn annually.

The majority of the School's research activity was judged as being world leading or internationally excellent. Particular recognition was given to the research conducted by the Repair & Regeneration in the Oral Mucosa, Extra Cellular Matrix in Repair & Remodelling, and the Violence



rae2008
Research Assessment Exercise



level. Importantly, this programme is translating research undertaken in the School (in progenitor cells, biomaterials & polymer therapeutics) into patented therapies for clinical use. The work of the Wound Biology Group was recognised in the £5.6m award from the UK Healing Foundation in 2008.

The **Learning & Scholarship** theme aims to develop the educational environment; improving pedagogic skills and ensuring the delivery of the School's innovative, internationally competitive postgraduate and undergraduate programmes. Research within the theme is varied with a number of staff publishing clinically related work in areas such as endodontics and clinical practice. In addition, a growing amount of work is published in educational research and this is to be expanded. Recent publications include strategy documents on curriculum development and the effectiveness of dental bedside teaching.

Significant University investment in the School, including a £2m laboratory refurbishment programme, has facilitated the expansion of research activities. This investment in human and physical resource has paid dividends and awards have been won from UK Research Councils alone totalling over £2m in 2007. The School has ambitious research plans for future growth which are assured, and two new senior academic appointments are being made this year to further foster the already dynamic research culture. Excitingly, plans are currently being progressed that will result in a new-build, state-of-the-art, research facility adjacent to the Dental Hospital site.

Meet the staff in the themes

Ilona Johnson

APPLIED CLINICAL RESEARCH & PUBLIC HEALTH

Ilona Johnson, a Clinical Lecturer and Honorary Specialist Registrar in Dental Public Health, is focused on improving the oral health of the population. She has a particular interest in the oral health of older people and is working towards her PhD at the School.

The challenges to dental public health of an ageing population who will be keeping their own teeth cannot be underestimated. Many will be dependent on others for help in looking after their dentition which many non-dental health care professionals find difficult. The objective of Mrs Johnson's research is to better understand carers' emotional experiences of carrying out oral care for dependent adult patients. Mrs Johnson's days are currently divided between



Cardiff University and the National Public Health Service, creating a balance between research and specialist training. She has a wide background of dental and non-dental working experience.

"On a personal level, my goal is to follow the research path to make a difference to the dental health of the population. Arriving here in Cardiff has been a fantastic experience and I have found it a wonderful place to work."

Dr Lindsay Davies

TISSUE ENGINEERING & REPARATIVE DENTISTRY

A Postdoctoral Research Fellow within the Tissue Engineering & Reporative Dentistry theme in the School, Dr Lindsay Davies' main research interests lie in reparative biology and stem cell biology. Alongside her postdoctoral work, Dr Davies also lectures on the School's MSc in Tissue Engineering.

In the second year of her postdoctorate, Dr Davies was awarded the Senior Colgate Prize for research at the British Society of Dental

Research/Nordisk Odontologisk Frening Conference in April 2007. The award gave her the opportunity to visit the Karolinska Institute in Sweden in early 2009 where she spent two months working closely with the world-renowned stem cell immunologist, Professor LeBlanc. "It was an incredible experience to work in Professor LeBlanc's laboratory. We are maintaining contact now and collaborating on a joint paper," she explains.

Dr Davies' research has also been recognised by a prize from the International Association of Dental Research (IADR) in 2008. Her aspiration is to gain international recognition within her field and lead her own research group specialising in stem cell biology and therapeutics.



Dr Colin E Rees

LEARNING & SCHOLARSHIP

Dr Colin Rees, a Bachelor of Dental Surgery graduate of the School, joined the School of Dentistry in November 2008 as a part-time clinical lecturer within the Learning & Scholarship theme. The theme includes several part-time lecturers who have over 500 years of collective experience between them.

Dr Rees, who has a dental practice in Cardiff, says: "There are several things I enjoy about being part of the School, including working with the students, keeping on top of developments in the profession and being part of a like-minded community. I see my role as helping to pass on working knowledge and experience to the students. We supplement the academic teaching with a practical approach to dentistry as it relates to the outside world."

& Society Research Group. It was noted that the School has in place good arrangements for career progression and evidence of an effective programme of interdisciplinary collaborations.

Since the assessment took place the School has invested in and expanded its research capacity. Multi-million pound investments have been made in new facilities and refurbishments providing additional research space and state-of-the-art molecular, protein biochemistry, computing and imaging facilities. Significant investment has also been made in additional senior research posts.

Modernising dental education

The School's review of academic resources and facilities will ensure that it continues to lead the way in dental education

The School of Dentistry and Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust are embarking on a two-year strategic review of educational provision and resource utilisation to look at how best to train the dentists and dental care professionals of the future.

The programme of projects being developed will encompass all aspects of the School's educational activities, including learning, teaching, assessments and clinical training within the School and University Dental Hospital, as well as in community-based clinics and primary dental care educational units. The programme will also review how best to use the resources at the School's disposal.

All stakeholders involved with the School, including staff, students, alumni and NHS colleagues, will have the opportunity to help shape the way in which students are trained in the future.

Professor Paul Dummer, Vice-Dean of Learning & Teaching, said: "This is a

fantastic opportunity for people to have their say as to how we should train and produce the dental professionals of the future. We want to ensure we are leading the way in terms of what we teach, how we teach, and the facilities we provide, in order that patient care and the student educational experience are of the highest quality."

Current provision

In 2001 the School introduced a revised curriculum which led the way in terms of developing a student-centred educational experience based on the attainment of clinical 'competences'. Cardiff students are tested for their 'competence' at completing various clinical procedures, while being assessed for knowledge using summative assessment tasks that allow their work to be graded within the honours degree classification used within the UK. The

School also has a method for monitoring the professional behaviour and fitness to practice of the students which ensures our confidence that students on graduation are safe and effective practitioners.

Another feature of the 'revised' curriculum is the increasing use of clinical training outside the Dental Hospital and School where students gain experience in a primary care setting and have an opportunity to enhance their basic clinical skills in the transition from the School to vocational practice. Students are taught in community dental clinics, district general hospitals and dedicated primary dental care education centres. This training has been facilitated via funding from the Welsh Assembly Government and the Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust.

New dental care BSc will improve professional skills

The School is planning to introduce a new BSc in Dental Hygiene & Dental Therapy in September 2010 which is designed to replace the existing Combined Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy.

The new programme aims to fulfil the requirements of the General Dental Council (GDC) in producing caring, knowledgeable, competent and skilful dental care professionals who are able to accept professional responsibility for their roles and provide effective quality healthcare for patients. It has been developed in line with the recommendations of the GDC's *Developing the Dental Team* document which actively supports the establishment of such courses.

The new programme will be fully integrated with and be complementary to the Bachelor of Dental Surgery

(BDS) programme, and will also offer students the opportunity to undertake a research module thereby broadening the multi-professional educational benefit.

The use of appropriately trained dental care professionals has been shown to improve productivity and efficiency, reduce the clinical workload for the dentist, reduce costs in training the team and improve the distribution of the workforce. More information on the differing roles of dental professionals can be found on the GDC's website at: www.gdc-uk.org/News+publications+and+events/Publications/Scope+of+practice.htm



Cardiff increases postgraduate provision

This year will see the launch of two new courses in Cardiff, as the School looks to increase its postgraduate provision.

The **MSc in Implantology** will adopt a modular approach, providing students from a professional dental background with an extensive understanding of the science and practice of implantology. The **Masters in Clinical Dentistry** is primarily designed for overseas students who hold a Bachelor of Dental Surgery (or equivalent) degree and who wish to pursue a specialist clinical career in either endontology or prosthodontics. The School also currently offers the following postgraduate taught courses:

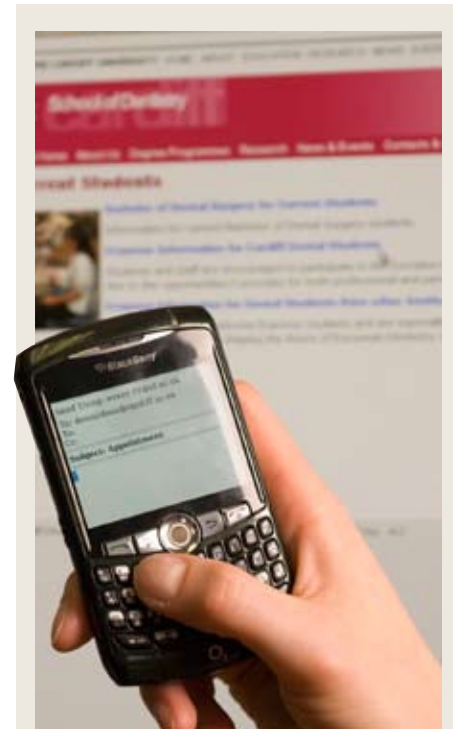
● **MScD in Orthodontics** is one of the longest running programmes of its kind in

the UK, and offers academic and clinical training for future specialists in clinical orthodontics;

● **MSc in Tissue Engineering** provides an extensive understanding of the science and practice of tissue-engineered therapies; and

● **MSc in Conscious Sedation** is a part-time modular course that allows dentists to acquire knowledge and skill in conscious sedation techniques while continuing their own work schedule.

The School currently provides education for more than 40 postgraduate students undertaking either research or taught higher degrees, with research activity aligned with the School's three research themes.



IT DEVELOPMENTS BOOST LEARNING

The shift in communication technology has led to the School embarking on a series of innovative IT developments to boost the student educational experience, including introducing SMS technology and online learning.

The aim of the SMS project is to connect with students more directly and enhance teaching and learning by supporting their needs for direct access to information. The service reminds students about appointments and exam times and improves contact with those students in community-based primary care units.

The School has also developed several online learning resources. These include podcasts, wikis and online assessments and are intended to provide flexible, independent and collaborative learning.

This year also celebrates the 10th anniversary of the School running the European Computing Driving Licence. To date, over 600 dental students have achieved this qualification.

“The aim of the SMS project is to connect with students more directly and enhance teaching”

More details on all of the School's courses can be found on the School's website at: www.cardiff.ac.uk/dentl/degreeprogrammes/index



EMMA WILLIAMS IS A 2ND YEAR DENTAL THERAPY & HYGIENE STUDENT

“Coming from North Wales it was important to me that I got to study in Wales and I was delighted at being accepted by Cardiff in 2007. The course itself requires a lot of self motivation and discipline due to the extent of the academic workload as well as all of the clinical activity!

“Personally, my favourite aspects include clinical restorative work carried out by therapists, and the preventative aspects. I also enjoy the opportunity to travel to hospitals in other areas of Wales where we treat a wider range of patients, which helps develop my skills as a clinician.

“The School offers good facilities for students, and the clinical facilities cannot be faulted. The tutors on my course are also very supportive.”

WELSH ASSEMBLY INVESTS IN FUTURE DENTAL WORKFORCE

The Welsh Assembly Government has authorised an increase in the number of undergraduates on Cardiff's Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) degree programme.

From 2010/11 the School's annual intake of BDS students will increase from 68 to 80, in recognition of the need to provide a sufficient quantity of high-quality, trained dentists to meet demand.

The additional numbers will enable the School to invest further in its educational infrastructure, improving facilities and the student experience.

Building for the future

The First Minister for Wales visits the School to highlight its remarkable achievements and open its impressive new research and educational facilities

Rhodri Morgan, First Minister for Wales, (pictured above and right) visited the School in January 2009 to participate in a series of celebrations to mark the 125th anniversary of Cardiff University, the 60th anniversary of the NHS and a memorial to Brian Cooke, the founding Dean. The events were also an opportunity to celebrate the School's recent success in the Research Assessment Exercise.

The First Minister opened new research, educational and clinical facilities in the School, including a new £1.6m research unit to help tackle dental disease.

The new Translational Research facility is a joint investment in research by the



CARDIFF SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY: A HISTORY

Professor Brian Cooke,
founder Dean



Official opening of the Dental
School by HRH Prince Philip, the
Duke of Edinburgh

Dental Hygiene
course launched

MScD in Orthodontics
launched – the first
Masters degree in
Orthodontics in the UK

Professor N R
E Robertson
becomes Dean



1962

1964

1966

1969

1974

1982

1985

1986



Martin Addy becomes
the first Cardiff graduate
to become a full-time
member of staff

The first 23 dental students were admitted to the
pre-clinical courses at University College, Cardiff



Professor J Miller
succeeds Professor
Cooke as Dean



is a great development for Cardiff's School of Dentistry, which is now ranked in the top five dental schools in the UK. This investment will allow the School to further build its world-class facilities and attract the best research talent to assist us in improving dental education and dental research in Wales."

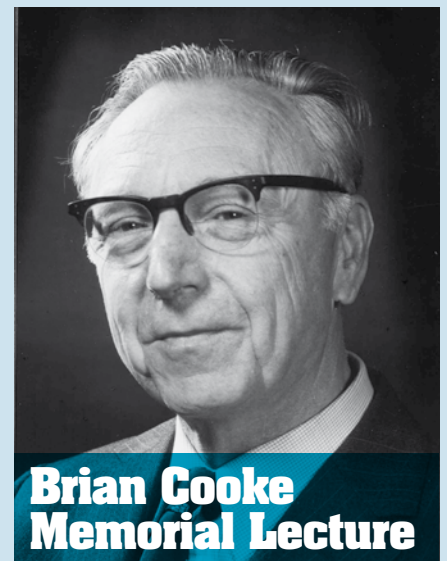
The facilities mean that the School will now be able to develop its research capabilities and attract more top quality researchers to the University. Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Dean of the School of Dentistry and Professor in Dental Public Health notes: "I was delighted to join the First Minister in officially opening new research and education facilities, and to help celebrate the success of staff and students. The School of Dentistry has had a very successful year and these new facilities will enable us to look forward to the further development of research, education and clinical practice."

The First Minister also visited the School's teaching laboratories which house the latest equipment for training clinical dentistry. He later opened a new £500,000 lecture theatre designed to meet the increase in student numbers and provide new and improved facilities for teaching at the School.

University, Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW).

The investment provides laboratory space for the development of biomaterial research targeted at patients with dental disease and lost dental tissues. The new facility also has dedicated office space for both non-clinical and clinical early career researchers, which will form the future research base and lead exploitable new dental research.

Officially opening the new facilities, First Minister Rhodri Morgan said: "This new facility



Brian Cooke Memorial Lecture

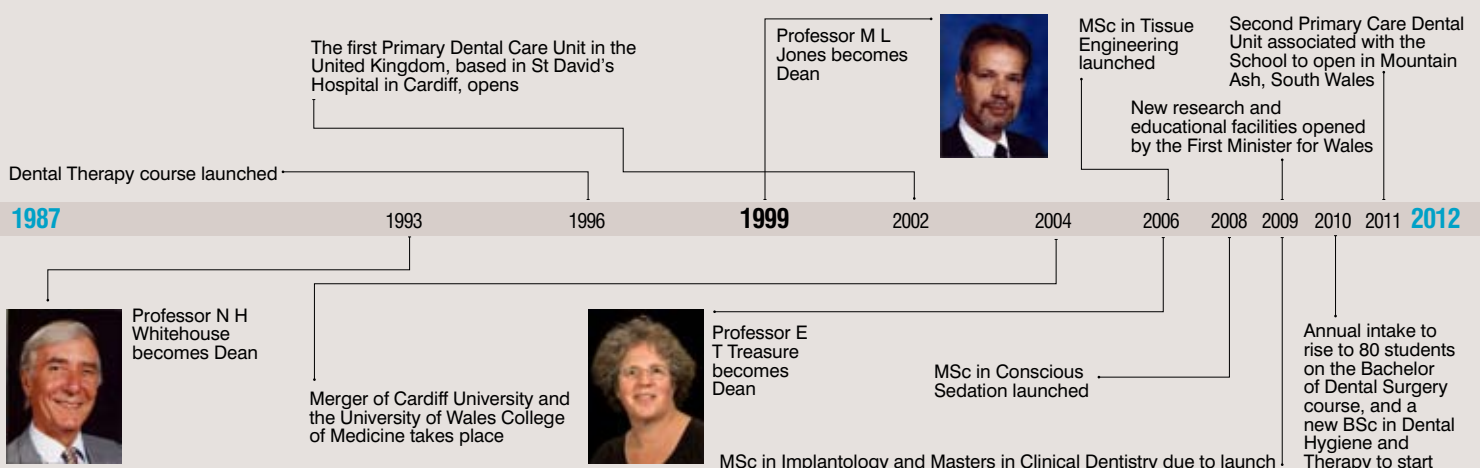
The inaugural Brian Cooke Memorial Lecture took place in January 2009, with lectures given by past and present academic staff.

Brian Cooke founded the Dental School in Cardiff, and was Dean from 1962 to 1982. When the School first opened in 1964 there were 21 undergraduate students and six senior lecturers, compared to 329 undergraduates, 35 dental care professionals, over 40 postgraduate students and more than 60 academic staff today.

Professor Elizabeth Treasure, the current Dean of the School, paid tribute to Brian Cooke's achievements and legacy, emphasising how the School continues to build upon the foundations he laid. "Brian was committed to ensuring that the best educated workforce was produced to improve the health of people in Wales and further afield, and we strive to continue this today in every area of our activity."

The celebrations concluded with a black tie dinner, attended by 150 alumni and colleagues and friends of the School, who donated towards the establishment of a School bursary to assist a student from a non-traditional background to study at the School.

Brian Cooke's family were guests of honour at the event which will now be held every two years in honour of his achievements.



An international reputation

Nouf Shaabin from Saudi Arabia and Ala Al Ali from Dubai are second-year students on the MScD in Orthodontics. Both receive scholarships from their governments to study in Cardiff

Why did you choose to study in Cardiff?

N: The course has a good reputation back home, and was recommended to me by a friend who had graduated from the School. The city also seemed to offer a better quality of life than somewhere like London. Cardiff is a very safe and friendly student town, with a great atmosphere.

A: I also had a friend who graduated from Cardiff and recommended the School. In addition, living here is a great opportunity to practice my language skills. I had an offer to study in Japan as well, but chose Cardiff because of its reputation.

Did you experience any difficulties in adjusting to life in Cardiff?

N: Not really – the staff are all very supportive and friendly, and UK and overseas students are treated exactly the same. In fact, that is true not just within the

University, but in the wider community. However, the culture is very different from back home and I was a little homesick at first, but that soon passed.

A: I expected to have difficulty communicating with the patients, but it is fine. Although talking with some of the younger patients was difficult at first because of their dialect! However, my English has improved a lot and it's not a problem now. I was also concerned about schooling for my children here, but I received a lot of support in finding somewhere for them to study and they are having a great time too. They now speak Arabic, English and even Welsh!

How would you rate the School's facilities?

N: Perfect! The nurses are also really helpful in showing you how things work. It's really beneficial having one-to-one

nurse support, which is something that a lot of other universities do not provide.

A: Yes, I cannot fault the facilities here.

Does the course content fulfil your expectations?

A: Yes, the combination of theory and clinical practice makes it extremely interesting. Attending conferences around the UK is also really beneficial.

N: I agree. In addition, the visiting teachers and having more than one supervisor is good as it provides us with a wider perspective. We also treat patients from many different backgrounds which improves our skills and knowledge.

What are your ambitions upon finishing the course?

A: I would like to continue in the School and, hopefully, do a PhD. I am really interested in Professor Richmond's research and would like the opportunity to work with him.

N: Ideally I want to return home and start my own practice, and maybe also work within a University so I can pass on some of the knowledge I have gained in Cardiff.

Would you recommend the School to others?

A: Absolutely. The atmosphere here is so supportive. There are six overseas students on the Orthodontics course with us, and we all help each other.

N: Yes, it's been an unforgettable experience. I would like to thank all the staff in the School for the help they have given me.



Ala (left) and Nouf (right) are enjoying studying in Cardiff

The Erasmus experience

Dental School students discuss the benefits of the exchange programme

Final-year dental students James Prince and Harjinder Singhrao have recently returned to the School following three months of studying at Malmo University, Sweden, on the European Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students (Erasmus) exchange programme. Their time at Malmo was spent working in the school's comprehensive care clinic, providing a wide range of treatments for paying patients.

The Erasmus exchange programme has been running for 20 years and offers students the chance to spend a period of time studying abroad at a European partner institution, developing language skills and learning in a culture different to their own. To date, over 3m students across Europe have participated in the scheme.

"We would recommend the Erasmus programme to any student. Working in a different culture greatly benefited our dental skills and knowledge and really widened our perspective," say James and Harjinder.



NEW FACILITIES FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

Dedicated study suite to boost learning environment

A modern new suite for postgraduate students within the School of Dentistry will open in October 2009.

The facility will comprise quiet and group study areas and include a common room, flexible seminar space and be fully IT-enabled with wireless provision. Storage facilities will be provided to ensure possessions are secure.

Professor Mike Lewis, Associate Dean of Postgraduate Studies, explains: "We are making a significant investment in our facilities for postgraduate students in light of the increase in numbers on our taught courses and the need for them to have modern, dedicated space to support their studies. It will also help students

“It will also help students across courses ... interact with each other”

across our five postgraduate taught courses interact with each other, which should be of benefit to our growing numbers of overseas students in particular.”

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Research collaboration

Three dental schools in talks to strengthen research links

The School of Dentistry has entered into discussions with Bristol University's Dental School and the Peninsula Dental School in order to pursue collaborative research opportunities. This unique venture would allow the three schools to combine complementary expertise and attract major research funding to South Wales and the West Country, enhancing the region's

international reputation for quality and excellence in research. Local patients would also benefit from the research through improved patient care.

Speaking at the first South West & Wales Dental Schools Research Symposium held to discuss the proposed collaboration Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Dean of the School of Dentistry at Cardiff University, said: "Developing research that impacts patients locally, regionally and globally depends on the sharing of knowledge across the profession. The School of Dentistry is the only one of its kind in Wales and we are very excited to be able to be part of this symposium, which is the start of strengthening research collaborations across the three institutions."

Professor Bill Shaw, Professor in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Development at the University of Manchester, gave the keynote address where discussions included population, microbiology and vascular research and experimental pathology and biology. Academics including Dr Simon Moore and Dr Lindsay Davies from Cardiff's School of Dentistry also gave presentations.

School's teaching excellence continues to be recognised

Sheila Oliver carries the torch for Cardiff School of Dentistry as runner up in Dentist Teacher of the Year

In a closely fought contest, held in London, Sheila finished runner up in the Dentist Teacher of the Year category at the sixth annual Dental Defence Union (DDU) Educational Awards, which are supported by the British Dental Association and recognise the best practitioners in dental education.

Sheila's success continues the School of Dentistry's impressive record at the awards, with previous category winners including Peter Ash and Jeremy Hayes.

Rupert Hoppenbrouwers, Head of the DDU, said: "The finest teachers are able to communicate their enthusiasm for dentistry, as well as their knowledge of the subject, to students and newly qualified dentists. These qualities are always evident in our finalists."

All the finalists received £250 towards the cost of educational materials for their schools or vocational training schemes, and an award to mark their recognition.



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Coming soon to a university near you



Focus on community dental training

The School's innovative clinical training programme offering dental students the chance to manage and treat patients in the community has been highlighted, as part of a UK dental conference.

The inaugural Community-Based Clinical Teaching Conference, organised by the School, took place at the Cardiff Hilton Hotel in April 2009 and focused on the role of this form of teaching in the curriculum.

The programme allows fifth-year dental students, under supervision, to take charge of patients at St David's Primary Care Dental Unit in Cardiff and other community sites across North and South Wales. By travelling to areas of high dental need, the students receive a more rounded educational experience while also providing much needed healthcare to areas which have previously not had close or significant access to such resources.

Key speakers at the one-day event included the Chief Dental Officer for Wales, Dr Paul Langmaid (pictured below), as well as representatives from dental schools across the UK and Ireland.

Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Dean of the School, said: "The community clinical training we've developed here in Cardiff has proved a major success. Not only do our students enjoy and benefit from the experience but we also help to provide the vital community dental services that, unfortunately in some parts of Wales, have been lacking."

"This conference was an opportunity to showcase our work and for all delegates to share knowledge, experience and best practice."

The conference follows on from a recent visit to the University by the Chief Dental Officer for New Zealand, Dr Robin Whyman, who visited St David's hospital to see for himself the impact of this form of training.

Dr Whyman noted: "This is an excellent example of how the community's need for dental treatment can be met by dental students."

The School and NHS Trust will be opening a second community-based primary care unit at Mountain Ash in the Cynon Valley in 2011. This 18-chair facility will provide access by appointment to day-time dental care for an estimated 10,000 people in an area of high dental need. The possibility of opening a third unit in North Wales is also currently being investigated.

Conference highlights benefits of student placements in the community



Dr Robin Whyman (left) observing students at St David's Primary Care Dental Unit

DATBLYGIADAU YNG NGOLEDD CYMRU

Mae Gogledd Cymru wedi bod yn gweithio gyda'r Ysgol Ddeintyddiaeth yng Nghaerdydd ers dros flwyddyn ar gynlluniau i sefydlu canolfan ddysgu cymunedol yn yr ardal. Mae pobl sy'n gweithio ym maes deintyddiaeth wedi bod yn cyfarfod a thrafod y dull gorau o wneud hyn yng Ngogledd Cymru er mwyn sicrhau cleifion ar gyfer yr uned, profiad defnyddiol i fyfyrwyr a budd go iawn i'r gymuned. Mae'n ymddangos erbyn hyn y bydd yr uned yn gallu trin 16 claf ar y tro, ac yn dilyn llwyddiant St David's, mae'n debyg mai ym

Mangor y caiff yr uned ei lleoli oherwydd bod angen deintyddion yn yr ardal. Mae llawer o gefnogaeth a brwdfrydedd am y cynllun ymysg y bobl sy'n gweithio ym maes gofal iechyd yng ngogledd Cymru. Gobeithir dod o hyd i safle addas yn sgil ad-drefnu'r GIG, os gellir bwrw ymlaen gyda'r cyfleoedd a'r cynlluniau. Byddai'r project yn un rhagorol a byddai'n gymorth i recriwtio a chadw deintyddion yng Ngogledd Cymru a byddai o fudd i iechyd deintyddol y gymuned.

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- 11 June The Principles of NiTi Endo – Nigel Foot Midhurst West Sussex
- 11 & 12 June Advanced Rotary Endo / Advanced Restoratives – Carol Tait & Paul Brunton Loch Lomond Scotland
- 24 June Restorative Multilayered Composites – David Hussey & Robbie McConnell Galway
- 26 June Rotary Endodontics for Beginners – Rachel Thompson Birmingham
- 9 July Restorations of the Endodontically Treated Tooth – Nigel Foot & David Bartlett Midhurst West Sussex
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Prevention is better than cure

The Cardiff Violence Prevention Model is key to reducing the high number of orofacial injuries across the UK

A data-sharing model developed by the School of Dentistry's Violence & Society Research Group (VSRG) is being rolled out across the UK to aid violence prevention.

The model, which is a core part of the UK Government's Violent Crime Strategy, is based upon emergency departments collecting data from patients injured in assaults and sharing this with public agencies to inform violence prevention strategies.

Led by Professor Jonathan Shepherd, Consultant and Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, the group adopts a multi-agency approach to violent crime prevention, bringing together clinical scientists, psychologists and economists to investigate the causes of violence and what can be put in place to prevent it. The group was formalised following its finding that around 85% of people injured in violence have orofacial injuries.

On finding that only up to a third of assaults are represented in police statistics, Professor Shepherd and his team formed a UK crime reduction partnership, comprised of clinicians, police, local and licensing authorities and Victim Support.

"This is key to violence prevention efforts," says Professor Shepherd. "Only by combining NHS data – particularly information collected

The UK is covered by more than 350 Crime Reduction Partnerships informed by the VSRG prototype

● National Violence Surveillance Network
▲ Implementation of the data sharing model



FAST FACTS: COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

◆ community violence is globally the fifth most common cause of death in the 15-29 age group, and the sixth most

common in those aged 30-44;
◆ there are more than 2m violent offences in England and Wales each year, and more than 320,000 people attended A&E

departments for treatment following violence in 2007;
◆ police forces in the UK recorded more than 15,000 serious violence offences in 2007; and
◆ in the UK,

interpersonal violence in 2003/4 resulted in combined medical and lost productivity costs of £3.8bn. The overall burden of violence to the UK taxpayer in 2003/04 was £13.4bn.

VIOLENCE & SOCIETY RESEARCH GROUP

The group's research focuses on the prevention of violent crime. Ten years ago Professor Shepherd and his team found switching to tempered glass made it tougher to break and likely to shatter into blunt-edged "sugar lump" chunks when broken, which reduced the chance of injuries caused by 'glassing'. The glass

industry switched to the new glass in the late 1990s, and the 1999 British Crime Survey found that the percentage of violent incidents involving strangers using glasses or bottles as weapons had fallen from 12% in 1997 to 4%.

In 2008 Professor Shepherd won the Stockholm Prize for Criminology for his research into late-night city violence.

in A&E departments – with police intelligence, can you describe the violence, identify where the hot spots are, and target police efforts. This partnership arrangement encourages reporting and investigation of violent crime, facilitates multi-agency risk assessments of victims' likely future harm, and promotes joined-up prevention."

Evaluation of Cardiff's Violence Prevention Model has revealed that it has significantly reduced nightclub and bar violence, preventing thousands of facial injuries. The national burden of injury from the use of glass as a weapon has fallen as a result of another strand of the group's work which found that unbreakable glass was key to prevention. After a long campaign by the group, the UK glass industry switched to toughened pint and half-pint glasses.

The group also developed the National Violence Surveillance Network, led by Dr Vas Sivarajasingam, which published information collected from a structured sample of 60 A&E departments throughout England and Wales. This has clarified national violence trends and has confirmed that violence levels have fallen year-on-year since 2000.

The group also led the establishment of the Universities' Police Science Institute in Cardiff which aims to increase the research evidence on which police practice and training are based. It is the first time that police research, training and services have been integrated in a research-intensive university.

Professor Shepherd explains: "This integrated approach could be translated into other areas, such as probation and prison services, where research is also lacking."

Instrumental positions

Dr Gareth Jenkins, renowned specialist in prosthodontics and restorative dentistry, graduated from the School's Bachelor of Dental Surgery course in 1970. He talks to *wisdom* about his illustrious academic and professional careers

Dr Jenkins was a full-time academic until 1975, whereupon he then managed a successful practice for more than 25 years with his wife, while continuing to lecture on a part-time basis to postgraduate students.

Dr Jenkins has written numerous articles, given courses and presentations around the world, and written a textbook: *Precision Attachments – a link to successful restorative treatments*, which has been translated into several languages. Having served as President of the British Academy for Aesthetic Dentistry as well as the British Association of Dental Implantology, he continues to work today in the practice he started in 1975.

What made you choose to study dentistry in Cardiff?

Partly geography and family ties – I'm from West Wales and wanted to remain close to the family – but it also had a lot to do with how new the School was. The School opened in the mid-1960s and was full of brand new equipment with some of the best teachers from across the UK and some extremely strong academics – not least Brian Cooke, the Dean. When I started I was one of only a handful in my year offered the opportunity to be granted a houseman position by Professor JD Eccles – an opportunity for which I am eternally grateful.

...but you almost chose medicine not dentistry?

Yes! I was undecided about whether to study dentistry or medicine. A doctor back home, whose brother was a dentist, actually helped me make up my mind. He told me that his brother's experiences, compared with his own, had made him wish he had entered dentistry instead of medicine. It was definitely the right choice for me.

What are your favourite memories of Cardiff?

The interaction with the students and the camaraderie with the staff. There was always a diversity of opinion that encouraged healthy debate.

What is the most important thing you learned during your time in the School?

To be meticulous and professional, and to remember that at the end of the treatment is a human being. Being sensitive to patients' needs is key – a good dentist almost needs to be an amateur psychologist. Within the first 30 minutes of your first treatment session you will learn a vast amount about a patient's personality and how to approach his or her treatment. We should not underestimate the fear factor that dentistry still has with the general public.

How has dentistry changed during your time in practice?

Until the late 1980s, the work in my practice was primarily involved with general dentistry, and I treated around 30 patients a day. When specialisation came in, GPs referred specialist cases to us and my work became geared a lot more towards crowns and bridgework, prosthodontics and cosmetic implant dentistry. The work then became more interesting as I was using, and refining, my specialist skills.

What is your proudest career achievement so far?

Probably being honoured by the American Academy for Aesthetic Dentistry in Washington in 2003. And also being President of both the British Academy of Aesthetic Dentistry and the British Association of Dental Implantology. With the latter I was instrumental in setting up the Members' Forum, which has become a springboard for several national and international lecturers.

What challenges will dentistry face in the future?

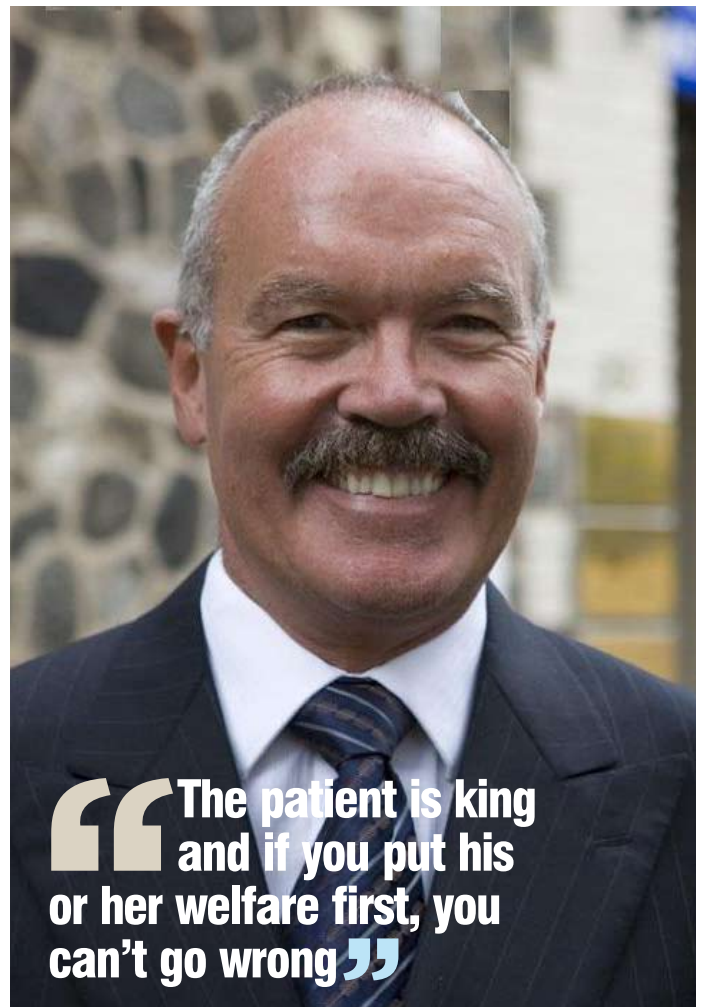
Private dental practice is becoming increasingly business orientated. With technical advances, financial restraints and bureaucracy increasing, the demands on dentists running high quality practices are increasing dramatically.

New graduates are going to find it much more difficult to raise the finances required to purchase into practices or set up their own. For this reason I think that ethical, high-end corporate providers will become very attractive. Finance will not be a problem, technical equipment will be excellent, staffing will be somebody else's problem and support staff will deal with employment law changes.

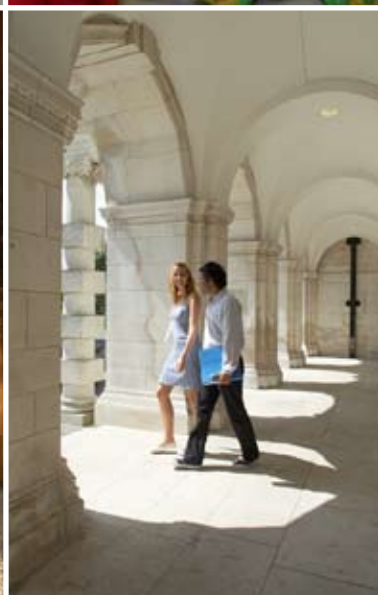
There is also a lot of value in fostering greater links between academics and private practice, perhaps incorporating elements of the approaches taken in the USA.

What advice would you offer to those students due to graduate this summer?

Keep learning, and push the boundaries as far as your clinical skills allow. The important thing is to understand your strengths and weaknesses, and follow the appropriate career path – whether that means academia, general practice or a specialism. The patient is always the most important person, and whichever path you follow you should ensure the best treatment and care possible. The patient is king, and if you always put his or her welfare first, you can't go far wrong.



“The patient is king and if you put his or her welfare first, you can't go wrong”



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